THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (f) The proposal for Voluntary Retirement Scheme submitted by Indian Airlines is under consideration of the Government.

New Cell at Airports

4037. SHRIBJ.PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a new Cell at the airports to oversee planning, development and upgradation of the airports;

(b) if so, the details of revamping plan, with special focus on security aspects; and

(c) whether this will cover some selected airports, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India has set up an Airport Development cell in December 2002 for development of non metro airports with the basic objective to upgrade the airports with latest technology by private sector involvement. It envisages commercial development of city side facilities at airports. Development of air side areas and activities will continue to be with Airports Authority of India. Security and safety will be as per the instructions issued by the Government from time to time. Airports Authority of India proposes to participate in joint ventures with private investors for development of passenger terminals and other city side facilities at these airports. The development of the targeted airports will be on the basis of world class global design and Expression of Interests have been invited in this regard.

Open Sky Policy

4038. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister ofCIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged upon Government to go in for open sky policy to boost tourism and generate investment and employment; and

(b) if, so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Andhra Pradesh Government has approached Government of India regarding adoption of an open sky policy. The

Government of India adopted an open sky policy for a limited period allowing operations of extra section flights by airlines of various countries with effect from 1 st December, 2002, subject to a commercial agreement with Air India. This policy will be in place till 30th April, 2003. This has enabled foreign carriers to mount extra flights to meet the demand during peak tourist season.

Airmiss Near Nagpur

4039. SHRI VI JAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(b) whether it is a fact that the airmiss which occurred on 17th February over Nagpur, between Chennai-bound Indian Airlines aircraft and Taiwan's Eva Airways flight was due to malfunctioning of Radar after it got struck by lightning a few days earlier; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not taking timely action to make the Radar function properly especially when no back-up facility was available to monitor the separation between aircrafts flying over Nagpur and the officials responsible for this serious lapse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The airmiss involving Indian Airlines and Eva Airways aircraft occurred over Nagpur on 17-02-2003. The non-availability of radar was a contributory factor. The radar equipment at Nagpur suffered extensive damage when lightning struck on 16-02-2003 and the equipment was rendered unserviceable with effect from 1800 hours 1ST. Arranging the spares and diagnosing faults took some time and the radar facility was finally restored at 2000 hours 1ST on 17-02-2003.

Commercial use of Safdarjung Airport

4040. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to dismantle the existing Safdarjung Airport and commercialise the vacant land to generate additional revenue;

(b) if so, the details of the commercial/other activities which are planned to be carried out on the land; and

(c) whether Delhi's new Master Plan permit the use of land for commercial activities?